Table 1 – Irrigation Comparison Survey

	MESA	TEMPE	GLENDALE	RWCD	SRP
Customer Base	300/8 parks	1000/18 parks	450	Approx. 4000	23,000 residential
Billing (Based on parcel of approximately 14,000 square feet)	$14.91 minimum* monthly fee ($89.46 over six-months)	$171/ semi-annual fee (flat rate)	$137/ semi-annual fee (flat rate)	$40 year $17.50 per acre/foot for urban rate – water must be pre-paid.	$62 year
# of employees	3.5	7	1	5	120
Maintenance/ Irrigation	In-house staff	In-house staff	Contracted	Customer	Customer
# of months irrigation provided	11	11	10	11	11
Size of system	1.5 square miles	6 square miles	4 square miles	40,000 acres	135 miles of canals and more than 930 miles of laterals running through the Valley.

* Minimum includes ½ hour of water delivery, no charge will be made when no water is delivered.

As the above chart indicates, the Cities of Mesa, Tempe and Glendale operate the customers' valves as well as distribution gates. They also maintain the lines, valves and gates within the system. The RWCD and SRP systems deliver water to a specific delivery point where a zanjero opens the gate and releases the water into the neighborhood. The neighborhood delivery point is the end of their systems. From there, the system bringing water to the private properties is made up of open ditches, underground pipelines, control gates and valves. This system is owned, operated and maintained by the people who use the system.

Largest Single Customer

The City is the largest single customer of the Irrigation Services contributing 36% of the revenue received.

Alternatives

Alternative 1

City continues to operate and maintain a full-service irrigation system with no increase in the current rates. Supplement irrigation program deficit of $30,000

(minimum) with water revenue.

Year	Customer Minimum Charge (30 minutes)	Revenue Estimate	Approximate Subsidy
Current	$14.91/ month	$189,000	($30,000)

Alternative 2
City continues to operate and maintain a full-service irrigation system. Increase the irrigation service rate by 16% to all customers to cover direct program expenditures.

Year	Customer Minimum Charge (30 minutes)	Revenue Estimate
Current	$14.91/ month	$189,000
Proposed	$17.30 /month	$219,000
Difference	**$2.39 /month**	**$30,000 increase**

Mesa Public Schools, which is the second largest single customer, would experience a yearly increase of approximately $2,400 in irrigation charges.

Alternative 3
A limited number of options exist in respect to the issue of regulating irrigation service. In contrast to the full service of water delivery and system maintenance, which is currently provided by the City, options exist to return the system to the customers to operate on their own, under contract or through a water delivery district. If the City's irrigation program was eliminated, customers could receive irrigation water from Salt River Project (SRP) directly. SRP would schedule customers' water deliveries, deliver water and open the SRP delivery gate. SRP would not operate or maintain the system. Customers or their contractors would open the irrigation valve in their yard at the scheduled time of water delivery and close that valve after the scheduled amount of water has been received. Maintenance of the system could be obtained as needed from private contractors. The town site allocation level would be applied individually to each customer resulting in an average reduction of one-third of the present amount received.

Establishment of an Irrigation Water Delivery District by the customers could be formed to eliminate this drawback. In order to form a delivery district, property owners representing more than fifty percent of the acreage within the proposed district boundaries must agree to form a district. A board of trustees elected by district members manages district business. The board of trustees is responsible for collecting the necessary fees from members to pay SRP for the water delivery fee and an irrigation service firm to operate and maintain the system.